



**Public Hearing Testimony of  
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner  
Department of Labor  
Labor and Public Employees Committee  
February 18, 2014**

Good Afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, Senator Markley, Representative Smith and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **House Bill No. 64, AAC Technical and Other Changes to the Labor Department Statutes**. My name is Sharon Palmer and I am the Labor Commissioner.

I am here to speak in support of this bill which makes technical changes to DOL statutes and repeals obsolete statutes and reports. A summary of the changes follows:

- Section 1 seeks to re-establish the recently repealed Office of Workforce Competitiveness requirement to coordinate the production of the annual legislative report card. The report card process documents a linkage between workforce training and higher educational outcomes and workforce outcomes, and the information provided is a vital part of the data collection effort underway in education and labor.
- Sections 2 and 3 repeals CGS 4-66e(d), which is the self-sufficiency measurement report developed by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, as it is obsolete and has no funding to support it.
- Sections 4, 5, 6 and 11 repeal CGS 31-3h(b)(3), which requires CETC to continue to develop a plan for the coordination of all employment and training programs in the state to avoid duplication and to promote the delivery of comprehensive, individualized employment and training services. This report is due annually on July 1st and we are requesting that it be due on January 31, 2015 instead to correlate with the CETC annual report requirement listed in 31-3h(8)(c). This will result in less duplication of effort.

- Section 7 adds the definition of "labor organization" due to the repeal of CGS 31-77, which requires labor organizations to submit an annual report to the Department of Labor. It was not the Department's intent to repeal CGS 31-77. Therefore, Section 7 should be removed from this proposed bill.
- Section 8 is an administrative correction to coordinate language within the statute.
- Section 9 is an administrative clarification of subdivisions and subsections within CGS 31-223.
- Section 10 is a technical change to CGS 31-254 to provide AccessHealthCT, the State Health Insurance Exchange, and its agents direct access to confidential unemployment compensation wage and benefit data through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Confidentiality safeguards are required to be included in the MOU as part of the disclosure process.
- Section 12 repeals CGS 4-124uu, which is the report of the trained workforce in the film industry. This report is obsolete. In addition, the reference to CGS 31-77 should be removed from section 12 since it was not our intent to repeal this statute in this proposed bill.